



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2004

Federal Election Commission  
999 "E" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

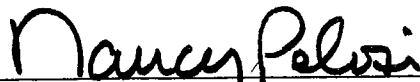
Dear Commissioners:

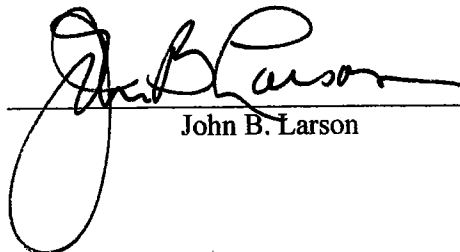
We are aware that the Commission may soon address questions regarding get-out-the-vote, voter registration, and other activities conducted by political organizations (other than political parties) and public-advocacy groups. We note from the public discussion that various claims have been made that the McCain-Feingold legislation (BCRA) is the basis for these initiatives. One Commissioner, in a recent letter to Roll Call, stated:

*"At the very least, serious questions exist whether outside groups are circumventing the McCain-Feingold law, and these questions must be addressed. In the weeks ahead, it will be critical that the sponsors of the McCain-Feingold law indicate whether they believe outside tax-exempt groups can legally spend unlimited soft money on election-related activities in the place of the national political parties under the new law."* (Roll Call, January 27, 2004 at page 4.)

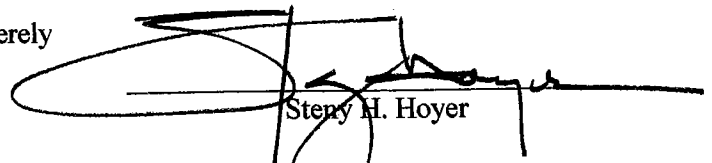
We are writing to say for the record that, when we voted for BCRA, we voted to get federal elected officials and political parties out of the business of raising and spending soft money – monies that presented the clearest danger of creating the fact or appearance of corruption in our government. The law did not aim similar restrictions at other political organizations or public-advocacy groups, so long as they are neither controlled by, nor coordinate their activities with political parties, candidates, office holders or their agents. In fact, it was our hope that BCRA would reinvigorate grassroots organizations to participate in the political process.

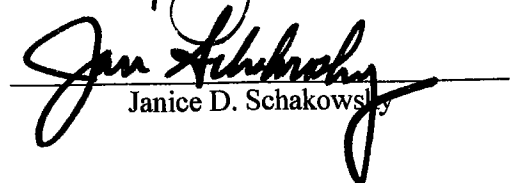
Whatever direction the Commission takes, BCRA reflects, in very clear and specific terms, the choices enacted by Congress to reform our federal campaign finance laws. While we do not express an opinion about actions the Commission may or may not take, we expect the Commission, as an independent agency, to exercise its authority consistent with the law and the Constitutional rights of the citizenry to fully participate in the political process by way of political organizations. And while the Commission may choose to impose new restrictions on the programs and activities of these groups, such restrictions should be applied fairly and consistently, and the agency should not proceed on the basis of some misperceived mandates from the Congress, which some have read into the McCain-Feingold legislation.

  
Nancy Pelosi

  
John B. Larson

Sincerely

  
Steny H. Hoyer

  
Janice D. Schakowsky

Bill Pasarell Jr

Paul E. Kanyinski

Mike Sp

William L. Watt

Stephen J. Hall MA 9

James R. Kasper

James H. Miller MA 9

Elijah E. Cummings

John W. Olver

Neil Abernethy

Carolyn M. Conly

Alvin Dooling

Paul A. Brady

Bob Dwyer

Frank Kelly

Theresa M. Le

James D. Bishop

Rich Stephens

Joe F. F.

James D. Bishop

Don Hume  
Mark Udall

Joe Kern

Art Lamm  
Bruce M. Watson

Ben Cardin

Chad Fattal

Phil Lewis

Jim Walsh  
Randy Schick

Gregory W. Meeks

Jim Moran  
Phil B. Miller

Shelley Berkley  
G. W. Brown

Mark Row

Bob Miller

Pete Stark

Steve Largent

Corrine Brown

Mr. Mc Donnell

Carolyn C. Kelpster

Edna Bernice Johnson

Chris Bell

Barbara Lee

Lucretia Millard Mc Donnell

Stephen Paul Jones  
Shirley Brown

Tom Allen

Lynn C. Calvey

Carol B. Haly -

John F. Terry

Letter to FEC Commissioners  
February 10, 2004

*Richard Hinojosa*

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Hinojosa", written over several horizontal lines.

